



## PAK President's Report May 2022

### NEWS

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### **WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY**

I am a student of human behavior. With more than 7 billion people on earth, I will never run out of subjects to study. My not-so-earth-shaking observation is that every person is a unique individual. I have never (thank goodness) met a

person exactly like me, and therein lies the fascination. Where are you from? What were your parents like? What is your birth order? Where did you go to school? What was your occupation? Married? Kids? Grandkids? Hobbies? Recently, my favorite is “How did you start playing pickleball?”. I think the key is to take a genuine interest in the person you are talking to, and to control any desire to make the conversation about me. I call this the me-you rule. If I make you more important than me, it encourages healthy discourse.

During the organizational phase of PAK, a great deal of thought went into finding a suitable group of people for the Board of Directors. We first defined the responsibilities of each board position, then we looked for people that had both the **willingness** and the **ability** to do the respective jobs. Ability is easy to measure. Has the person had education, training, and experience to do the job? Willingness is the hard part. It is a personal commitment. These are volunteer positions. Is there a willingness to work hard for a goal that is still only a dream? When the candidate meets with opposition or obstacles, are they willing to persevere? Many people can do the work but are just not willing. Results are the way we evaluate performance and are the true test of effectiveness. Our first PAK 2022 Open Tournament this month is an example. Our director Rumi is tournament chair and has been working tirelessly on making this the best Pickleball Tournament Kauai has had. The entire board has supported her by accepting support tasks for the tournament. An example of willingness and ability was displayed at a recent Zoom meeting where registration, payment, and errors were hammered out using spreadsheets, receipts, and shared screens. Individuals were hammering away at their own computers cross-checking items until all discrepancies were resolved. I firmly believe that when our dedicated pickleball courts are a reality, that those results will prove that we picked the right people for our leadership board. Willingness is a character trait. Ability without character rarely achieves anything. ***“Where the willingness is great, the difficulties cannot be great.” -Niccolo Machiavelli***

It will take many people and many dollars to reach our mission objective. PAK has expanded its leadership core with the addition of two ad-hoc committee chairpersons. **Sande Lew** has accepted the role as **Fund Raising Chair** and **Karen Shrimpton** is now the PAK Publicity Officer. They both exhibit the requisite levels

of willingness and ability, and we look forward to their positive results going forward.

**Sande Lew** started playing pickleball at Princeville in 2018. The recently renovated Emmalani Courts is right across the street from her house, and as a former tennis player in high school, she wondered what game was going on there. With her first try, she was hooked, and has not played tennis since. Sande was born to first generation Filipino parents in Honolulu. Her father was in the military, so she left Oahu to live in California and Arizona. She graduated from Santa Barbara City College in Finance and Accounting and has experience as a full charge bookkeeper, Accounting Supervisor, Controller, and Accounting Service Company owner, which she still maintains today. She has worked with for profit and non-profit organizations for 43 years, and has fund raising experience. She is married to Al Baroni (not a pickleball player, yet) and has one daughter and three grandchildren. Her grandchildren go to the same schools that Sande graduated from. Sande danced hula for many years, and her kumu were Merry Monarch Miss Aloha Hula winners and judges. She has danced in California, Hawaii, Tahiti, Samoa, France, Canada, Switzerland, and Japan. As she has no more room in her closets for hula costumes, she plays pickleball now instead of dancing hula.

**Karen Shrimpton** also lives next to the Emmalani courts. About two years ago, she and her husband Tim retired to Princeville from careers as schoolteachers in English speaking schools around the world. Karen taught students with learning disabilities and was a guidance counselor. Tim was a science teacher, and they taught in China, Philippines, Bangladesh, Uganda, and Florida for 35 years. Karen has two children, and she and Tim have two adopted children from Uganda. No grandchildren yet, but they are waiting patiently. In 2020, she saw people at the courts next door playing pickleball and wanted to try. This was during the time of COVID, and she remembers that she was not welcomed enthusiastically initially. Fear about new people possibly introducing the virus made the welcoming aspect of pickleball cooler, and now things have settled down to normalcy. Karen calls that phase “pickletics”, a combination of pickleball and politics because it was almost like she had to run a campaign to play. Karen will be coming on board as a Publicity Officer with PAK, and initially will coordinate regular articles in the local news media to increase awareness of our beloved sport. Hopefully, pickletics will have died a natural death and new players will be welcomed on the courts. Karen

also volunteers at the Food Pantry, and her dog Sadie is a trained canine conservation dog and helps Karen in the Avian Botulism program.

Welcome, Sande and Karen. We are looking forward to the results of your willingness and ability to help PAK!

Until next month Aloha and Mahalo,

Nolan